



Bulldog

BULLETIN

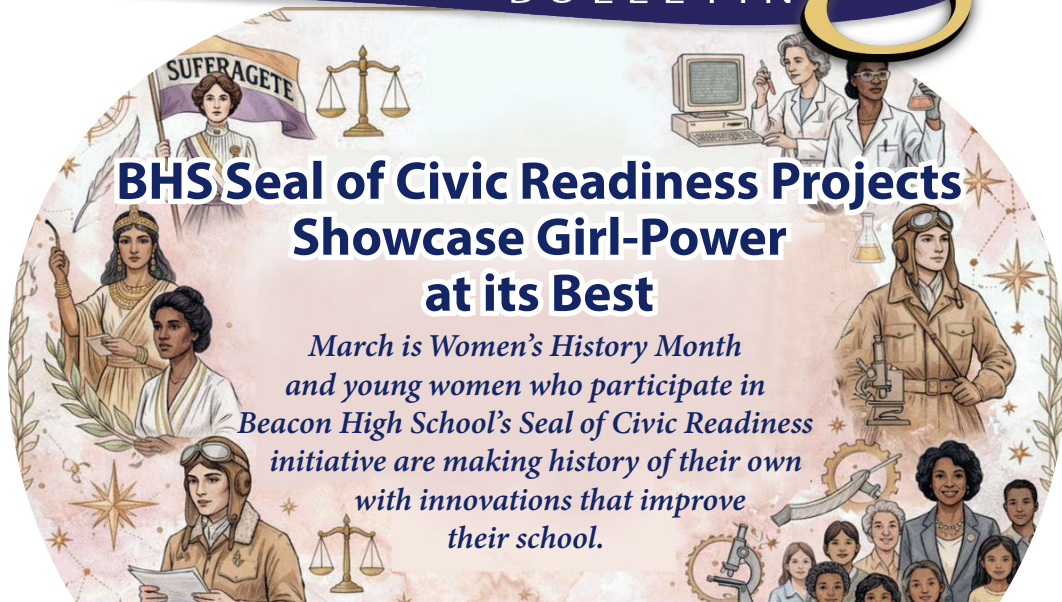
March 2026

Message from the Superintendent

In this edition of the Bulldog Bulletin, there are many examples of powerful student leadership in the Beacon City School District. Student leadership is evidenced in many ways in the district, from student advisors to the Board of Education, formal student government, captains of teams, and student councils at the elementary level. Students participating in the Seal of Civic Readiness work have made profound improvements to our city and our district.

Thanks for reading and thanks for your ongoing support!

—Matt Landahl



BHS Seal of Civic Readiness Projects Showcase Girl-Power at its Best

March is Women's History Month and young women who participate in Beacon High School's Seal of Civic Readiness initiative are making history of their own with innovations that improve their school.

Clever Seniors Create Planners for Time Management

Seniors Grace Hockler and Lola Ciccone initially remembered being given planners when they attended Rombout, but had not received any at Beacon High School following COVID, prompting them to make it a reality for this school year. "I was always interested in using the planners," Hockler said.



Fellow senior Annabelle Notarthomas was excited to help Hockler and Ciccone advocate to get the planners, so much that she could not hide her enthusiasm. "When we got the planners out, we were skipping down the hallways," Notarthomas recalled. "It's good to see your work manifest into a real material thing."

Principal Corey Dwyer was onboard with the idea and used available funds to get them customized with the Bulldog mascot on the front cover. The girls have heard from fellow students about how the planners help keep them on top of assignments since cell phones were banned during the school day.

"Some students really need to see things visually and they have to write it out for them to really remember it," Hockler said. "That's how I work and I figured it would benefit other students as well."

Ciccone noted that being able to provide these planners also helps students who may not have additional funds to afford one.

"Whenever you're in a position where you're trying to benefit the community, you also have to think about financial reasons why someone is not able to have something that could help them," Ciccone said.

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IT'S TIME TO START WORKING ON YOUR FILM PROJECT!

2026 BCSD STUDENT FILM FEST!

SUBMIT YOUR 2-MINUTE FILM FOR THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL BY **APRIL 8, 2026**

WWW.FORBEACONSCHOOLS.ORG FOR MORE INFO

CONGRATULATIONS BHS BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL 2026 SECTION 9 CLASS A CHAMPIONS

Congratulations are in order to the Bulldogs Boys Basketball team which won the Sectional Championship for the first time in 23 years, beating Red Hook's team 62-37.

Coach Patrick Schetter is extremely proud of his team who put in plenty of hard work all season and were rewarded with this great distinction.

"They earned this section title and that is something nobody can ever take away from them," Schetter said.

Some of Schetter's senior players could not have been happier to reach this goal. "The feeling was amazing after it took three long years knowing we had the talent," Jachier Ballard recalled.



"It was just finally getting one that made it special."

Ryan Landisi agreed, noting that the team powered through some tough seasons in order to make it this far.

"It felt great to win because of how long we had played together," Landisi said.

Michai Thompson said winning a sectional was surreal and felt like a dream come true.

"It was one of the things I have thought about growing up as a kid in Beacon," Thompson said. "The environment of the game was sensational, it felt like the whole city was behind us and we are thankful for that."

BHS Seal of Civic Readiness Projects

Celebrating Women's History Month



Senior Helps to Eliminate Food Waste

This fall, senior Farhana Antora launched an initiative where students can drop off uneaten food they do not want into two bins at the school cafeteria which is sorted by Antora and fellow senior Savannah Ray and donated to Fareground, a local food bank for

its pantries and community dinners. Over 1,100 food items have been distributed since then.

Antora was inspired to start this initiative after seeing how much food was wasted in the cafeteria and remembered her Rombout days where students could put uneaten fruits into a basket.

She pitched the idea to Principal Corey Dwyer, who liked the idea, and then met with BCSD Director of Food Services Anthony Rollins and Fareground Executive Director Jamie Levato to discuss what procedures were needed for the initiative to be successful.

"I've volunteered with them before, and I know that they can reach more people than I can personally," Antora said of Fareground. "I wanted to help the environment too because food waste is obviously not a good thing and I wanted to combat that."



While this initiative earned Antora a Seal of Civic Readiness recognition, she did this more because she likes to help her community and is hopeful younger students will embrace and expand it beyond Beacon. "I hope we contribute to more food banks around the community and county because I know there's people who need help in other places too," Antora said. "I'm very thankful for how everyone's been embracing this project."



Beacon Commemorates THE LUNAR NEW YEAR



JV FORRESTAL

To ring in the Year of the Fire Horse, second graders in Jennifer Gall's and Alicia Donovan's classes gathered in



the cafeteria, which was decorated with paper lanterns, red tablecloths,

and a colorful dragon head, to savor a feast of Asian delicacies, some of which were provided by Green Garden Chinese Restaurant in Fishkill. Dishes included sesame chicken with rice, dumplings and sushi.

This celebration started as the annual Calico Ball Luncheon. "It went along with our cultures units,

and when the curriculum changed a little bit, it went perfectly with our Celebrations of Light unit," Gall explained.



The students also read about the Lunar New Year, created

related art, read stories from different Asian countries and learned how to write their names in Chinese. Two of Gall's students, including Riley Kelso, are of Asian ancestry, making the lessons more meaningful.

"It is really nice to let them shine and share some of their traditions," Gall said.



Kelso dressed in a traditional Chinese gown for the celebration and shared in vivid detail about the Monster Nian, a key figure of the holiday. It is one of Kelso's favorite holidays for a heartfelt reason.



"My favorite part of the holiday is spending time with my family," Kelso said.



GLENHAM

Students of all ages rang in the Lunar Year by making paper lanterns and red fire horses on ice pop sticks and were given red envelopes



stuffed with prizes as it is traditional for this holiday. Many wore red as it symbolizes good fortune, joy and vitality ahead of the celebrations

They also learned how to write out Chinese characters before savoring an authentic feast of lo mein, spring

rolls, dumplings and chicken and broccoli in the cafeteria where they tried their hand at eating with chopsticks. Many thanks go to the parent volunteers who agreed to serve the lunch.

SOUTH AVENUE

To help celebrate Lunar New Year, second and third graders created lanterns, name plates in English and Chinese, and candy dumplings filled with marshmallows and chocolate chips.



Henry Corvino enjoyed making and tasting his dumplings and shared about one tradition that stood out.

"You have to clean your house before Lunar New Year to let

bad luck out and let good luck in," Corvino explained. "It's really fun."

Oliver Garcia Morales and Norik Mrytaj, students in Kathryn Lokmaci's ENL class, interviewed Math Assistant Chhoden Willard, who hails from Nepal, about how she celebrates it.

They shared that snow lions are symbols in Nepal representing



protection and how respect for elders is crucial, as well as other unique traditions.

"They get fresh clothes and get a new haircut, because every Lunar New Year is a fresh

start," Mrytaj said of Willard and her family.



Look Up to the STARS AND PLANETS in Pop-Up Domes

Starlab at South Avenue



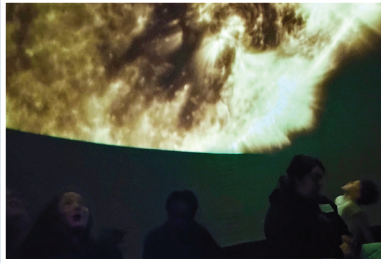
Starlab, an inflatable dome that provides students with an immersive learning experience about the stars and constellations, was a bright part of the day for South Avenue students for a week this winter.

Before bringing fifth graders into the dome, which also shows what multiple cultures see in the sky on the light drums, Library/Media Specialist Aaron Burke did an introduction about stars, including the North Star, which is vital when it comes to direction.

Charlotte Rivers appreciated the very unique cultural lessons surrounding the stars. "I like seeing all the star signs, it's really cool," Rivers said.

Gayson Gatto loved this unique environment. "I think it's cool that you're able to see the stars inside during the day," Gatto said.

Pop-Up Planetarium at Sargent



Sargent students had an "out of this world" experience where they learned about the planets in a pop-up planetarium courtesy of the Mid-Hudson Discovery Museum.

Lilyanna Cowdery-Faimon, Director of STEAM Engagement, and Kolene Craven, STEAM Educator, talked about the characteristics of the planets and touched on the controversial reclassification of Pluto from a planet to a dwarf planet in 2006.

Fifth grader Maisie Sabeen enjoyed being in the planetarium where she learned that Venus was the hottest planet despite being 67 million miles away from the sun. "I thought it was amazing to see something that you couldn't see outside during the daytime," Sabeen said.

BHS Junior Scores Big at SkillsUSA

Beacon High School junior Elizabeth Roberts has plenty to smile about after she placed third for cake decorating at the SkillsUSA Area IV Conference in Westchester County in late February.



Roberts, who studies Culinary Arts at Dutchess BOCES' Career & Technical Institute, was surprised to hear that she won due to the very strong competition she had, but was excited nonetheless.

"There were a lot of amazing cakes out there," Roberts recalled.

For Roberts, joining SkillsUSA was a great opportunity to engage in community service and learn new skills. She recommends it to future BOCES students who want to step out of their comfort zone. She credits BOCES teachers for helping her get this far and plans to participate in the statewide SkillsUSA competition in April.

"I definitely couldn't have decorated a cake before, and I've learned a lot about community service and just helping out," Roberts said. "It just seemed fun to try a new experience."



BOCES' District Superintendent Dr. Jodi DeLucia noted that SkillsUSA is more than just a competition – it is a chance for students to demonstrate high level technical skills they are developing while also developing problem solving and communication skills. "We're always incredibly proud of the students who participate in our SkillsUSA team and represent Dutchess BOCES so well," DeLucia said.

Rombout Snowflake Dance



Rombout students came in ready to showed off their dance moves, take pictures at a selfie booth, and munch on pizza and snacks at the annual Snowflake Dance. It is one of many awesome events organized by the school's Student Council, where students from all grades are invited to join the fun. While the council has advisers who oversee everything, it is a largely student-run event.

Come to BCSD

The Harlem Wizards competed against Beacon's own Heartbreakers basketball team, consisting of teachers and staff from the district's six schools, during a fun February night filled with cool shots, celebration and plenty of laughs.

The always unflappable District Superintendent Dr. Matt Landahl coached the Heartbreakers amid the organized chaos in the Beacon High School gym with Athletic Director Mike Carofano and Boys Basketball Coach Patrick Schetter serving as referees. Prior to the game, some of the

Wizards' youngest and biggest fans were invited to dribble and shoot some shots with the players.

BHS Alum Gives Back to South Ave.



Recent Beacon High School graduate Reilly Landisi, Class of 2025, holds her former elementary school, South Avenue, in high regards, so much so

that she decided to come back and substitute teach this past winter break.

Landisi is studying elementary education at SUNY Oneonta with a goal to become certified in special education. The opportunity to get tangible experience working with children was too good to pass up.

"I'm gaining wonderful training here and it's setting me up to see what I'm getting myself into with this major," Landisi said. "I love it and it's been great."

Any pressure Landisi felt quickly dissipated when she saw that many of the teachers she had when she

was a South Avenue student are still there and offering her guidance. She also utilized what she learned in BHS teacher Nisha Prahaladsingh's Introduction to Teaching to class.

"Seeing them really calmed my nerves on day one and made it easy," Landisi said of the South Avenue teachers. "They've been giving me a lot of advice."

Landisi hopes to return to South Avenue once the semester is over as she has loved the experience there.

BEAD Shows Lots-of-Love on Valentine's Day

Beacon High School

In the week leading up to Valentine's Day, the Class of 2026 sold carnations to students and staff for the low price of \$2 a flower which were delivered right before the big day. All profits help make the senior prom more affordable for students.

Class Officer Amaya Paulin thought it was a good idea to keep up a tradition that seniors have done for years.

She noted that while some students bought them for their significant others, some bought them for their friends; Paulin herself received some from her friend. When Paulin and fellow Class Officer Mika Sanchez delivered the carnations, many were surprised and happy to receive some.

"We went around to different classrooms and people were really excited to receive flowers," Paulin recalled. Some people gave them to teachers. A lot of students and security guards bought a lot of flowers just to help out."



The lovefest continued Feb. 13 when the Beacon Players held its annual Love Songs at the Howland Center where students sang some of the greatest love songs of all time to a packed crowd. They also gave audience members a preview of their upcoming performance of "Jekyll & Hyde" scheduled to run between April 24 and 26.

Forrestal Pep Rally



Students at Forrestal screamed their lungs out and showed their love for Forrestal during the annual Pep Rally held right before Valentine's Day.



Teachers and staff competed in a jump rope competition and every class, mostly decked out in red, brought colorful signs, but it was the school's cheer-leading club that really stole the show with a choreographed routine set to some of today's greatest hits under the direction of Third Grade Teacher Pam Ciotoli.



Fun Learning at Glenham



Glenham students and staff celebrated the 100th and 101st days of school this winter, but each celebration was quite different.

For the 100th day, students dressed as detectives solving mysteries around the building, while the 101st day truly went to the dogs. Students dressed like Dalmatians, while Principal Cassandra Orser dressed as Cruella DeVil, the fur loving villain from "101 Dalmatians."

All the while our pre-kindergarten students worked on a unit all about keeping their teeth healthy and clean by counting how many toothbrushes were on a chart and determined what foods are good and bad for their teeth. We're sure they will fill you in all about it.



BHS Student Named Youth Ambassador for Tourette Association of America



Beacon High School sophomore Crystal Musorofiti

was named a Youth Ambassador for the Tourette Association of America this spring, where she will advocate for and talk about the neurodevelopment disorder in her community.

After seeing an Instagram post about the role, Musorofiti, who was diagnosed with Tourette last year, applied for it. She submitted an essay about how it affects her life and why she would be a good advocate, especially for younger kids who have been bullied by others for having tics, or sudden, involuntary and repetitive movements caused by the disorder.

"I thought that it would be a good opportunity to learn more about myself and others and advocate for myself and them," Musorofiti said. "I've been able to be like, 'OK, this is me and I'm able to explain to other people about Tourette's.'"



In early March, Musorofiti travelled to Washington, D.C., for training on how to give effective presentations on Tourette, and attended in-depth talks on the science behind it. Whilst in Washington, she met TLC reality star Baylen Dupree, who has an extreme case of Tourette, and talked with the staffs of Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand about the association's mission.

"I got to meet a bunch of other people with Tourette's Syndrome which I had never met before," Musorofiti said. "So many of us are used to apologizing for certain things or having to explain ourselves, so it was nice how we were all in a group and we all understood each other."

Musorofiti looks forward to hosting assemblies at BHS to explain Tourette Syndrome so it becomes common knowledge to her fellow students, and to quell common misconceptions, including how not every person with the disorder tics constantly.

"It doesn't affect us in a huge way as much as people assume... not everyone with Tourette's swears or screams, it's different for everyone," Musorofiti explained. "That's why education is so important to me."

For anyone with Tourette, Musorofiti recommends staying positive and not getting upset if people misunderstand what they go through. She thanks Principal Corey Dwyer and Guidance Counselor Michelle Santiago for their support.

"There will always be understanding people and it's important to remember that you're not a burden and you're not crazy," Musorofiti said. "There will be periods where it will be really hard and periods where it will be a breeze."

